

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10081 060927Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-14
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9173

UNCLAS TOKYO 10081

FOR OES/ENP/ENP P. BECKER

DEPT PASS EPA/OIA; K. MACONAUGHEY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

1. THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY HAS ISSUED A NOTICE TO THE MINISTRIES OF CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE HONSHU-SHIKOKU BRIDGE PROJECT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. WHILE JAPAN DOES NOT HAVE A LAW REQUIRING THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES, THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY HAS ASKED THE TWO MINISTRIES TO CONDUCT THIS STUDY VOLUNTARILY. THE GUIDELINES PROVIDED BY EA CALL FOR THE MINISTRIES TO DRAFT A SET OF PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCT OF THE STUDY; OPEN THE PROPOSED PROCEDURES TO PUBLIC COMMENT AND HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS; AND REVISE THE RULES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE HEARINGS. NEITHER MINISTRY HAS REPONDED TO THE REQUEST YET.

2. THIS MOVE BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IS SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN SOME SUPPORT FOR THE BILL REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ON MAJOR PROJECTS. THE BILL HAS
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DIED TWICE IN THE DIET BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM OTHER MINISTRIES, NOTABLY MOC AND MITI.

3. THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC HEARINGS BE HELD ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF POWER PLANTS TO BE BUILT IN JAPAN. THE UTILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPORT

THE RESULTS OF THE HEARINGS AND PROVIDE COMMENTS TO MITI, WHICH WILL ACT AS ARBITER SHOULD ANY CONFLICT ARISE. THE NEW POLICY WILL COVER THERMAL PLANTS OF 150 MEGAWATTS OR MORE, GEOTHERMAL PLANTS OF 10 MEGAWATTS, AND NUCLEAR AND HYDRO PLANTS OF 30 MEGAWATTS OR MORE.

4. THE NEW MITI REGULATIONS ARE AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW POWER PLANTS WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED OVER THE NEXT DECADE. CURRENTLY, MANY NEW PLANT PROJECTS ARE STALLED DUE TO PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO PLANT SITING.

COMMENT: IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT MITI, AS ONE OF THE STRONGEST OPPONENTS OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS, HOPES TO STAVE OFF PASSAGE OF SUCH A LAW BY ADOPTION OF THESE VOLUNTARY REGULATIONS WHICH IT CAN CONTROL. END COMMENT.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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